

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's daughter, Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer, who was also my maternal Aunt passed away last week. *We belong to Allah and to Him do we return.* At the time of her demise she was 82 years old, and with the Grace of Allah until the end she was active. 3 or 4 days prior she had some heart pains and was admitted to hospital. Doctor Noori treated her. Angioplasty was carried out upon her of one veins, and then a few days after, this happened again. She was improving in her health but it seemed that suddenly she had a heart attack. This heart attack proved fatal. She was in hospital at the time and it was thus that she returned to her Lord.

She was an extremely jolly, merry and cheerful person and she would take care of others in every way. Providing financial assistance to other people and taking care of the sentiments of others were special characteristics and distinctions found within her. Almost every single one of the letters of condolences that I am receiving of those who were acquainted with her, mention these qualities, how she was selfless, and took care of the sentiments of others and the feelings of others so deeply, we never have seen anyone like that. May Allah the Almighty elevate the rank of this maternal aunt of ours, and give her a position amongst the beloved ones.

She was born in April 1929 from Hazrat Sara Begum who was the third wife of Hazrat Musleh Maud, the Second Caliph. When her respected mother passed away, Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer was only 3 and a half years old. So the sentiments of her childhood and also the feelings and emotions during that very young age have been depicted by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II in one of his articles. This is such a depiction by reading which, a person cannot refrain from being engulfed in deep sentiments and emotions. I normally keep great control over my feelings and emotions but when I was reading this alone, it was very difficult to control my feelings. In any case, I shall read out a few extracts from this which are in relation to her great high moral standing in childhood. There are great lessons to be learned from it.

As I mentioned, she was only 3 and a half years old when her mother passed away. But even in childhood she established an example. Regarding the very comprehensively written article by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II, I shall present just a few points from it. Reading this article, reads the emotional atmosphere of that occasion combined with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's statement and description, one develops a moving condition.

But as I mentioned, I shall relate some of these accounts a bit later on, but briefly, before this, I will mention a few aspects of her life, written by various people who have written to me. Indeed, my mother would tell me that Hazrat Musleh Maud, after her mother passed away, entrusted our aunt to Hazrat Umm e Nasir to take care of. This was mentioned by Hazrat Musleh Maud himself.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II at that time instructed and advised my mother to take care of her. My mother was approximately 19 years older than her, and treated her like a child. When my mother married, then this aunt of ours was 7 or 8 years old, at the most 9 years of age. When my mother was about to leave as a bride after the marriage, my aunt started insisting 'I cannot live without *Baji Jaan*. I want to go along with her.' Hazrat Musleh Maud explained to her and she understood. She remained quiet and demonstrated that same patience and forbearance that she showed from childhood. Then she became quite sad.

After that she remained with Hazrat Ammajan – Mother of the Faithful. The houses that Hazrat Musleh Maud made for his children in Rabwah were such that the houses of my aunt and my mother were joined together, they shared the same walls at a point. Before the maps of the houses were changed and further construction took place, there was a door to go between the houses so we would go to each other's houses in this way. So there was great informality. I always saw my aunt as merry and cheerful, meeting others with great happiness. She would warmly welcome everybody in the house whether old or young. She was found to be hugely hospitable. Whether one was rich or poor, of high status or of low position; she would extend hospitality to them. Her husband, who is our uncle, Pir Moinuddin, son of Pir Akbar Ali; the majority of their family was non Ahmadi. Aunt also maintained great relations with them.

One of the nieces of Pir Moinuddin has written the following, that ‘our father's side are mainly non-Ahmadis, but even with them, our paternal aunt would have great relations and developed great affection and love and respect them. Everybody would respect her because of this and mention her with great affection.’ May Allah make it so that this relationship of love and affection becomes a mean of drawing them near, and also may Allah accept her prayers, and may they be granted the ability to recognise and accept the Promised Messiah.

With nephews and nieces she would have a relationship of great informality and love and affection. They would share confidential matters with her. Due to this informality, they would also listen to her advice and counsel and not mind what she said. Even when she scolded she would scold with cheerfulness and also with love. If she counselled anybody it was always by giving accounts of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Amajan – Mother of the Faithful and also Hazrat Musleh Maud . So referring to their incidents and accounts she would advise and counsel people.

One of her nieces informed me that on one occasion they were 2 cousins present there. Inadvertently, they made a mistake. Within that mistake there was an aspect of humour. They were extremely anxious that they should share that with somebody and they wanted to share that with an elder, but in whichever direction they looked, they felt that they will be scolded if they related the incident to anybody. Finally, they came to her (Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer), that is both of these cousins, and she listened to what they had to say very patiently and also laughed. But then also lovingly scolded them and informed them that on such occasions this is what the Islamic teaching is.

At every opportunity she imparted Islamic teachings, the Ahmadiyya traditions and she never wasted any opportunity. Whenever she had the opportunity she took avail of it and used it as an opportunity to explain. So everything she said revolved around these points. Alongside this, she would explain to the girls of the blessed family of the Promised Messiah that you have a dignity and honour which should remain within you.

When I went to her home before the Caliphate, she would always extend entertainment and hospitality just as would be imparted to her elders. After becoming Caliph, her love, her affection and relationship increased greatly. It involved respect and reverence. She would regularly write to me for prayers and also send me messages and different letters. This expression with the Caliphate was extraordinary. She came here twice to the UK for *Jalsa*. She bore great respect, honour and reverence for the Caliphate. In terms of the highest level of respect and reverence for the Caliphate that behoves an Ahmadi, it was found even more in her to the degree that sometimes the way she treated me (with respect), would embarrass me.

Whenever she came she would always say that 'I desire to come every year but because of my age I have to think again.' At times she would make a plan to come but then that plan would not materialise.

As I stated, she lived for a long time with Hazrat Ammajan - Mother of the Faithful. After my mother was married she mostly remained with Hazrat Ammajan. She remembered many accounts narrated by Hazrat Ammajan. When she came to *Jalsa* here one year, Lajna UK also recorded an interview with her. The President of the Lajna UK arranged for that interview. If those accounts of Hazrat Ammajan that she related have not been published then Lajna should publish them.

Once Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II assigned a duty upon two of his wives that they should go at night, turn by turn and take care of Hazrat Ammajan. This was at the stage when Hazrat Ammajan was quite seriously ill. So Hazrat Ammajan replied that 'This child is sufficient for me. I have become used to her. You do not need to send anyone else to me.' Hazrat Ammajan also greatly loved and showed affection towards her.

When Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer married Hazrat Ammajan became extremely sad. When Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer returned after a few days to meet Hazrat Ammajan, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II took her by the arm to Hazrat Ammajan and said 'Look, your daughter has come to meet you.' So it was a relationship of great love with Hazrat Ammajan.

I was speaking about her relationship with the Caliphate. In terms of her love and her loyalty with the Caliphate, I should also mention that it was so enhanced that she never let her close relations get in the way of her care for it. For this reason she had to face many anxieties and worries. But always, for the sake of the Caliphate, she stood like a shield. One boy who was brought up in her house who in fact now is a grown man, he wrote to me that 'The demise of Hazrat Bibijan has caused us a great sadness because we have lost a very pious, prayerful and holy and saintly person. Bibiji was extremely prayer-inclined, pious and one who took care of poor people and people in need. She was a woman of God. She would always advise us to remain firmly attached to the Caliphate. She would search for the opportunity to fulfil the instruction of the Caliph of the time.'

Then, she also worked for Lajna in her vicinity. He writes that 'She would often send me to different members to collect the subscription for the *Misbah* magazine. If anybody was late in offering the subscription or did not contribute she would give that amount herself. She would always remain anxious that the subscription should not be late. It should be collected.'

Then he writes that "At times I would go to the market to shop for grocery. Sometimes the money was insufficient so I would pay for the remaining amount myself. She would say that 'Take this amount promptly. I do not want to remain indebted to anybody.' In the same way the writer writes that 'In any one month many wedding invitations were received. She would say to me' the name of the person writing this is Mumtaz that 'Make a list of all these wedding invitations and remind me of them'. She would say that 'On this day a wedding of a previous servant or an old servant of the family of the Promised Messiah or of a holy person is occurring' and she made it a point to attend their weddings. Or she would say that 'There is a wedding of such and such poor person and I most certainly will go to it.' Sometimes she would say 3 times in a day that 'I have to go for the wedding of this poor person so be prepared.'

Similarly, there are other counsels and advices that she imparted. Her son in-law, Syed Qasim Ahmad, has written about her that 'In her love and obedience for the Caliphate she held an extraordinary influence and impact in the area where she lived as President of the Lajna. There was no need for any proof of it. This was a natural sentiment. On the day of her demise in the morning she would say repeatedly that write a letter on my behalf for prayers to His Holiness. It comes to light that she had an indication of her demise because she said to one of her granddaughters regarding one of her deceased sister in-laws that she had come to visit. She called her daughters over, showed them love and said 'Forgive me'.

'There were countless qualities found in her as a mother, as a mother-in-law and as a wife. Her examples in this regard were of the highest standards. She was also very careful to take care of the sentiments of her husband according to his mood and never gave any opportunity for complaint.'

I give the examples of these old saints and holy people to give a lesson to new couples, for such families, for such husbands and wives where problems arise, that they should ponder. In particular girls and ladies should reflect upon this. They should take great heed that first of all their responsibility is to take care of their homes. So the writer continues that 'She displayed perfect obedience towards her husband. She would always counsel her daughters too regarding their husbands that 'Take care of your husbands.' You would never see her arguing with her husband. If she counselled and advised anyone then she would always counsel with reference to the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Ammajan and Hazrat Musleh Maud. If she was ever away it was for an extremely brief time and then she would return to that kind and generous and gentle way. She would always counsel the girls of the blessed family of the Promised Messiah that they should never give cause for anybody to stumble due to their deeds or actions.'

May Allah make it so that these prayers of hers and these counsels of hers come to use for her daughters, and also the other girls of the Promised Messiah's family.

Then he writes that 'She was also extremely compassionate and kind to her servants. She started preparing the dowry of the girls who worked in her household and were brought up there and grew up there, from a young age. Sometimes she bore the expenditure of their marriages. There were times when the female workers in her household and their daughters were extremely rude. Some advised her, that remove them immediately but she would say 'I have yet to arrange for their marriages.' After their marriages she would share in their grief and sorrows.'

The following is a very useful counsel of hers for maintaining relations nowadays in terms of the problems that arise that 'If you want to advise your daughter-in-law, counsel your son and if you wish to advise your son in-law, counsel your daughter. At the time of extending a favour to another she would do it in a way that the other person would not feel that he or she is being favoured. In her worship and also in her financial dues she was extraordinarily regular and she would make great efforts for this affect. Even if she had to face difficulties in the path she would be careful to avoid failing to fulfil her dues.

In 1944, when Hazrat Musleh Maud made an appeal to donate properties, she gave all of her jewellery towards this appeal. At the age of 13 she served as Secretary to the House of the Messiah in Qadian. She also served as Secretary of the Nasirat of Qadian. After migration in Ratan Bagh and also in Rabwah she served in different capacities. At different occasions and

at different times she had the opportunity to serve but it never ever happened that she held a desire to hold office. Even whilst holding office, when she was asked to carry out a trivial task, she was always immediately prepared to do so. In terms of her knowledge, in terms of administration and in terms of religious education, she was extremely capable and competent. She mentioned in an interview that in Ratan Bagh, Lahore that she would go on visits with Mumanijan Hazrat Saleha Begum (wife of Hazrat Mir Muhammad Ishaq) at night. She would provide quilts or blankets to those who did not have quilts or blankets.

There is a historical occasion in 1949 when she travelled in the same car with Hazrat Musleh Maud and with Hazrat Ammajan, to Rabwah. She would say that ‘This was the most memorable incident of my life.’ In the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of Masjid Mubarak she was one of the ladies of the family of the Promised Messiah who prayed upon one of the bricks. She also had the opportunity to serve the Lajna in the mud houses of Rabwah (when Rabwah was first populated the houses were mud houses). She was Sadr Lajna, *Halqa Darul Shamali*, for quite a long period of time; she had the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

From 1973 - 1982 she remained Naib Sadr Lajna, Rabwah at the time when my mother was Sadr Lajna Rabwah and so she had the opportunity to work with her. Then after 1982 for a couple of years she was Secretary Khidmat e Khalq, Lajna. She was also Secretary Ziafat, Lajna. In the same way she served in different capacities apart from serving in her local area. At every instance, on every occasion, whatever responsibility or office was assigned to her, she would carry it out with great humility and humbleness. One of her daughters wrote to me that ‘During the illness of my mother if anyone came to meet her and for some reason the meeting was unable to take place and that person had to return, she would be extremely sad and she would always say that ‘Do not prevent anybody who comes from meeting me, never stop them. The entrance of Hazrat Musleh Maud’s house was opened to all. If anybody could come and meet him, how can I decline to meet people?’

Then one of her daughters writes ‘Mother greatly loved all of her brothers and sisters she could not anybody saying even jokingly, or if anybody raised the question of whether that person is your *real* brother or sister, or your stepbrother or stepsister.’ Hazrat Musleh Maud had various wives and they all had their own children from Hazrat Musleh Maud, but the issue of stepbrother or stepsister never came to the fore and if anybody even asked about this, she would immediately say ‘Never speak of stepbrother or stepsister because Abbajan (in other words her father Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II) was greatly displeased by this. Then one of her non-Ahmadi uncles said that ‘Bhabi [sister in-law] always lived in a dignified manner’ Then mentioning our mother she says that ‘Aunt had great love for her and she would often say that she brought me up. Once Abbajan had entrusted me to Bajijan, Bajijan always fulfilled that obligation.’ The younger brothers and sisters used to call our mother Bajijan. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II once mentioned his dream, which is a very long dream. In it Hazrat Syeda Sara Begum Sahiba comes and apart from mentioning other things she said to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II that ‘You have become upset with me’ so, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II said that within that dream I replied to her that ‘You have given me Chheero.’ In the household Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer was affectionately called Chheero. So he said ‘You have given me a daughter like Chheero how can I be upset with you?’¹ She would have great regard of the fact that she was a daughter of Hazrat Musleh Maud and that due to her, no flaw or shortcoming should be attributed to Promised Messiah. One incident that she has related at

¹ Ahmad, Hazrat Mirza Basheeruddin Mahmood – Khalifatul Masih II. *Roya o Kushuf Syedna Mahmood*. 568.

many gatherings was that ‘Once I was going to my brother’s house which was right across the road. I felt that my brother’s house is right there in front across the road so I put the lower part of my *Burka* above my head rather than wear the full *Niqab*, I put the coat or *Burka* upon her head and set out when I left the house and when I reached the middle of the road I saw that Hazrat Musleh Maud was also coming from the other side. This is an old story and so Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II was coming from Qasr e Khilafat. She said there was no other route for me to take so she had to return home. She said that ‘I felt that perhaps His Holiness had not seen me. The following day at breakfast I went to meet Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II. He said ‘Look, if you take one step forward, then people will take 10 steps forward.’ So, thus did Hazrat Musleh Maud inculcate and gave training of the dignity and sanctity of *Purdah*. May Allah enable her daughters and other girls of the family of the Promised Messiah and the other girls of the *Jamat* to always understand the importance of *Purdah*. Amen.

In the article of Hazrat Musleh Maud which I referred to he writes:

Amtul Naseer is a child of 3 and a half years old and is always close to her mother. Because of this she was extremely attached to her parents. She became very silent after her brother explained to her [about the death of their mother] as if astonished. She was unaware of death. She only understood what death was after hearing about it from other people. I am not aware of what her brother said to her because she did not cry or scream or weep. She wandered around silently. When Sara Begum’s body was placed on the cloth and the ladies gathered around her body and started crying, she said that ‘My mother is asleep, why are these people crying? When my mother will awaken I will say to them you were asleep and ladies were around your bed weeping.

Hazrat Musleh Maud says at the time of her passing away he was on a journey. She was buried while he was away. Hazrat Musleh Maud says that:

When I returned from my journey and I expressed love to Amtul Naseer, her eyes were numb but she would not weep. I hugged her and showed her affection, but still she did not weep. To the extent that I was convinced that she did not understand what death actually was. But no, this was a mistake on my part. This child was giving me a new lesson. Sara Begum passed away in a new house in Darul Anwar. When we returned to our own house in Darul Masih, it came to light that Amtul Naseer did not have any shoes on her feet. So somebody was told to go fetch her some shoes. Someone came to show her the shoes. So I said to Amtul Naseer ‘Choose the shoes that you like. Whichever shoes you desire, take them.’ She took 2 steps forward but then suddenly she stopped. She looked towards me astonished. Then she looked towards her elder mother, Umm e Nasir. ‘This means I can take whatever shoes that I like but my mother has passed away, so who would buy me the shoes?’

At that time, in that state, being overcome with emotions, I was absolutely sure that if I said anything or remained there I would have been overwhelmed with tears. So for this reason I immediately turned my face and I said whilst leaving, take your shoes to Ummijan ... All the children in their homes called their mothers Ummi. My elder wife, Umm e Nasir my first wife is called Ummijan. So whilst leaving I turned to look, I saw that Amtul Naseer had her emotions in check. With great forbearance she took the shoes and went to Ummijan. Later circumstances verified, that in spite of such a young age she understood that her mother had passed away.

May Allah the Exalted keep this tiny flower safe. May He satiate this tiny heart with the water of His mercy and grace it with good thoughts and good views and good emotions that nurture, bearing fruits into an excellent life and be a source of blessings for the world.

O Merciful God who knows the state of the heart and knows how patiently this small girl is suppressing her emotions! She may or may not have knowledge of your Attributes but she is implementing your commandments with greater courage than us. O Allah! I plead for

You to keep her heart safe from the adverse mishaps in the way that she has shown on the surface in terms of her steadfastness. Grant her inner steadfastness just as she has been so openly steadfast. Just as she demonstrated tremendous strength, grant her real strength. My Lord it is in Your wisdom that she has been deprived of love and at this time she is learning to love. O the source of love! Take her in Your loving lap and implant Your love in the seed of her heart. Indeed, take her for Yourself, chose her for Your service. May she only seek Your love and may she be a beggar for Your threshold. May she be weeping at Your Divine Threshold. Grant her the blessing of the world as well so she will not be disgraced and humiliated before people. In spite of every kind of respect may her connection with the world be like a person rushing from one room to another at the time of rain.

With the grace of Allah the Almighty this was witnessed in the entire life of Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer. This prayer of his was fulfilled gloriously in her. May her children and also all the family of the Promised Messiah testify to this. In fact may all the members of the *Jamat* be the recipients and testify to this prayer.

Then Hazrat Musleh Maud prayed for all of his children and I feel it is necessary to relate this. May Allah the Almighty enable the entire *Jamat* to fulfil this because nowadays it is the time when, God willing, we are going to enter a new phase of triumphs and success. If this remains our state then only then can we be successful. It is the prayer of Hazrat Musleh Maud that:

O my Lord, I entrust my other children as well to You. May they not prove the dogs of the world, may they be the birds of your Paradise, pillars of religion and defenders of the House of God, stars in the firmament that guide those that are lost in gloom, a brilliant sun that tears apart the darkness and opens the way for hard work and progress, that awakens those who slumber and unites those who are apart.

May they be trees of love; the fruits of which are completely devoid of bitterness, malice and jealousy. May this be a water-well by the wayside covered by shady trees where every tired traveller, every acquaintance and every stranger stops for rest and whose cold water quenches the thirst of every thirsty person, a tree whose vast shade takes every helpless person into its refuge. May they stop the oppressors from oppression. May they be the friends of the persecuted, may they accept death for themselves to give life to the world. May they endure difficulties but give comfort to others, may they have great courage and noble morals and also high moral standing. May they welcome all to their food-laden. May they vie with one another in the doing of good works, may they neither be niggardly nor wasteful nor so open that it causes humiliation and disgrace. O my guide! May there be preachers of religion, propagators of Islam and those who revive morals and rekindle the faded paths of Righteousness. May they be champions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, verifiers of ‘those who have not yet joined them’², who would uphold the practises of the ‘People of Persia’, may they honour You and be ready to fight for Your religion. May they be the devotees of Your Prophets, true sons of the Holy Prophet, the Chief of all the Prophets ﷺ, true and ardent devotees, with love whose fervour never extinguishes. O my Master! May they be Your slaves and only truly Your slaves. May they not bow to the worldly kings but be most humble in your presence. May they leave behind pure progeny and guide the world on the paths of spiritual knowledge and sow the seeds of everlasting piety. May they take righteousness further and reform evils. May they be adverse to indolence and be living models of the spiritual life. O my Living, Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining God! May they, their children

² He shall also raise him amongst others who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty the Wise.

and the children of their children be your trust in the world which Satan cannot breach. May they be Your property that nobody can steal. May they be the cornerstone of the building of Your religion which nobody can reject. May they be the sword among Your drawn swords that uproots every single evil. May they be the hand of Your pardon that is extended to forgive sinners. May they be the olive branch that gives the glad tiding of the end of the storm. Indeed, O Living, Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining God! May they be Your instrument which is sounded to gather people. In short, may they be Yours and You theirs so much so that each one of them cries out at this Oneness that:

Let me be you and you be me, I the body and you the soul
Lest anyone should ever say that I am someone and you are someone³

Amen Amen. O Lord of all the worlds.⁴

So this is that prayer may Allah enable to be fulfilled upon every single member of this *Jamat*. May Allah the Almighty continuously elevate the rank of the deceased, may Allah enable her children to carry out her counsels and advice.

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad – Khalifatul Masih V. Friday Sermon 18th November 2011.
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³ Amir Khusrow.

⁴ Ahmad. 'Meri Sara', 23rd June 1933. *Anwar al-Ulum*: xiii. 186 – 189.